



Meeting Minutes
Nisqually River Council Meeting – Annual Retreat
August 16, 2019
Anderson Island Historical Society
Information: 360.438.8715

Attendees:

NRC Members:

Dan Calvert – Puget Sound Partnership
Glynnis Nakai – BFJNNWR

David Troutt, chair – Nisqually Indian Tribe

CAC Members:

Phyllis Farrell
Howard Glastetter
Ed Kenney

Karelina Resnick
Lois Ward

Guests:

Jeremy Badoldman Perkuhn – Nisqually THPO
Bradley Beach – Nisqually THPO
Kim Bredensteiner – NLT
Janine Gates – Little Hollywood Media
Paula Holroyde – LVW
Joseph Kalama – Nisqually Indian Tribe
Krystal Kyer – Pierce County
Sheila Marcoe – Dept. of Ecology

Martin McCallum – Nisqually Land Trust
Carol Paschal – Anderson Island Parks
Ruth Piccone-Powers – Dept. of Ecology
James Reistroffer - NLT/NSS
Etsuko Reistroffer – NLT/NSS
Mikayla Sison Smith – Nisqually
AmeriCorps
Maya Teeple – Thurston County
Ashley Von Essen – Nisqually Indian Tribe

Staff:

Brandon Bywater – NRF
Justin Hall – NRF

Sheila Wilson – NRF
Emily McCartan – NRF

1. Anderson Island Parks Tour

Anderson Island Parks Board members and staff guided NRC participants on site visits at Jacobs Point Park and a nearby stream restoration site. Shoreline restoration, trail development, and salmon habitat projects were discussed.

2. Nisqually Watershed Slideshow

Etsuko Reistroffer presented a slideshow of photos taken over her years of hiking and volunteering in the watershed, from the glacier to the delta. Wildlife and plant identification and restoration projects were highlighted at Nisqually Land Trust and other protected properties.

3. **Committee Reports and Updates**

Advisory Committee Reports:

Citizens Advisory Committee Report

The CAC did not meet this month.

Chair Report – David Troutt

A significant habitat violation, without permit, occurred in Ohop Creek. A private landowner installed over 400 feet of riprap, cut trees, and dredged spawning gravel from the creek. This is a critical habitat loss of most of the spawning gravel in the creek for Chinook and steelhead. NOAA, EPA, WDFW, Pierce County, ECY, and NIT met last week with the landowner and will meet again next week to pursue correction. The modifications had taken place over several years but it was only recently reported.

David, Glynnis, and Dan will participate in a tour of South Puget Sound next week with congressional staff from the offices of Reps. Heck, Herrera, Kilmer, Schrier, and Newhouse and Senators Murray and Cantwell, talking about salmon recovery and work in Nisqually. Preparing for significant federal ask for the next budget to move salmon recovery aggressively, highlighting that SRKWs and tribal fishing rights are at risk and need urgent action. I-5 project and continued community forest development are big initiatives that will require federal funding.

Allied Program Reports:

Nisqually Land Trust – Kim Bredensteiner

The Land Trust closed on Middle Ohop IV (33 acres). Staffing changes: Addie Schlusel is now the land steward, and Courtney Murphy (former AmeriCorps) has moved into the stewardship coordinator role.

Nisqually River Education Project – Sheila Wilson

No Child Left Inside grant has begun, with a rafting trip for kids at the Nisqually Youth Center and a camping trip to the tribal use area at Mount Rainier with Wa He Lut students. Jeremy, Mikayla, Brad, and Tribal Youth Program have been involved in the activities so far.

Nisqually River Foundation – Justin Hall

The Foundation's Evans Event fundraiser is September 4 at Wilcox Family Farm. CAC and NRC members should have received an email about complimentary tickets. NRF is hoping to exceed the fundraising goal of \$40,000 for the event.

Salmon Recovery Program – Ashley Von Essen

The Nisqually Watershed Festival is coming up on September 28. Volunteers needed, and those interested can get in touch with Ashley.

4. **Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan Report – Final Report**

Emily McCartan, Nisqually River Council Coordinator

The final first report on the NRC's Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan report is finished and available (link: <https://www.slideshare.net/Nisqually/nisqually-watershed-stewardship-report-81619>). It is the result of a year and half of research and writing (a draft was presented for NRC feedback at last year's retreat). Joe Kalama requested a copy of the report for the Nisqually Tribe's archives and one for himself. Copies are available for any NRC member upon request. This plan informs the NRC's agenda for the next seven years; this is a quick high-level overview of the 12 goals and sub-indicators that the NRC uses to evaluate the health of the watershed. The report assesses each indicator based on (1) the level of our current knowledge and (2) how well we are accomplishing it.

Goal I – Ecosystem Functions

- Knowledge base: ✓+
- Status of goal: ✓
- Challenges:
 - Habitat fragmentation
 - Research & restoration funding
 - Development pressure
 - Climate pressure
- Core priority (salmon recovery, estuary and riparian restoration, lands management, streamflow restoration)

Goal II – Biodiversity

- Knowledge base: ✓+
- Status of goal: ✓- (active efforts)
- Challenges:
 - ESA species
 - Invasives
 - Development pressure
 - Climate pressure
- Core priority (salmon recovery, Nisqually Land Trust)

Goal III – Sustainable Resource Use

- Knowledge base: ✓
- Status of goal: ✓
- Challenges:
 - Large-scale data availability and integration
 - Balancing economic and environmental needs
- Core priority (Nisqually Community Forest, mineral lands)

Goal IV – Education and participation

- Knowledge base: ✓+
- Status of goal: ✓+
- Challenges:
 - Funding
 - Transportation
 - Community engagement data
- Core priority (NREP, volunteer, community education)

Goal V – Health and Wellness

- Knowledge base: ✓ (limited for watershed)
- Status of goal: ✓
- Challenges:
 - Limited NRC expertise/leverage
 - Population growth and infrastructure strain

Goal VI – Trails and recreation networks

- Knowledge base: ✓+
- Status of goal: ✓
- Challenges:
 - Funding for implementation
 - Balancing recreation and conservation needs
 - Increased permitting requirements
- Core priority

Goal VII – Culture, Arts & Heritage

- Knowledge base: ✓
- Status of goal: ✓+
- Challenges:
 - Limited NRC expertise/leverage
 - Funding
 - Limited data availability

Goal VIII – Integrated Communities

- Knowledge base: ✓-
- Status of goal: ✓-
- Challenges:
 - Transportation
 - Limited data availability
 - Limited NRC expertise/leverage
 - Housing security
- Growth priority: Transportation

Goal IX – Sustainable businesses

- Knowledge base: ✓- (could be improved with significant survey work)
- Status of goal: ✓
- Challenges:
 - Stakeholder involvement
 - Recycling costs
 - Limited NRC expertise
 - Population growth
- Growth priority

Goal X – Sustainable Tourism and Recreation

- Knowledge base: ✓
- Status of goal: ✓+
- Challenges:
 - Diminished access to private lands
 - Equity of access
 - Balancing recreation and conservation needs
 - Holistic watershed-scale research needs
- Core priority

Goal XI – Economically Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

- Knowledge base: ✓-
- Status of goal: ✓
- Challenges:
 - Limited comprehensive data availability
 - Consumer awareness
 - Economic resources

Goal XII – Brand identity goal is in the process of being dropped – other initiatives better serve this purpose.

Much more detail is available in the Report. There are several options for the Council to weigh for next steps, and we have funding through a Bureau of Reclamation WaterSmart grant to conduct outreach and other planning activities. Emily presented three possible avenues to build on the report, which are not mutually exclusive but would all require significant staff time:

- data integration and mapping
- aligning NWSP metrics with “external” issues – local initiatives, climate and population challenges, engaging stakeholders outside of current NRC circles
- communicating our stories more broadly

Discussion:

Is it time to take a critical look at the NWSP itself? The original model envisioned the member agencies taking on the goals and challenges. We should discuss if that will happen, or if expanding the non-profit entities that could do the work directly might be more impactful. Could also consider partnerships with other watershed councils or coordinating effort among watershed groups. Nisqually is often out in front. Our approach has been to be more gradual and less confrontational, which can serve us well, but other areas work to push agencies to faster action. The NRC is unique from any other group and has accomplished a lot of inspiring things. There will be continuing discussion in the coming months about how to go forward from here.

The meeting was adjourned, with some members going on to visit the Nisqually Land Trust property on South Oro Bay.